

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/630,442

Examiner

Laura C. Guidotti

Applicant(s)

MCMILLEN, GERALD L.

Art Unit

1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 19 July 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-14 and 16-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20070928</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Lohnes, (Reg. No. 45451) on 28 September 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 22-28

Claim 16 Lines 1-2 please delete - - said perforated suction conduit has a set of angularly disposed inlets, - -

Claim 16 Line 2 after "said" please insert - - angularly disposed - -

Claim 16 Line 2 after "inlets" please insert - - are - -

Claim 16 Line 3 please delete - - from the vertical near the surface to be cleaned, said angle - -

Claim 20 Line 1 after "wherein" please insert - - said system further includes a fluid pump unit, wherein - -

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 3-10, 12-14, and 16-21, none of the prior art made of record includes a pressure washing system comprising an elongated fluid collector, the fluid

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collector being substantially hollow throughout its length and includes an elongated perforated surge barrier and a perforated suction conduit disposed within the hollow interior of the barrier, the surge barrier being general U-shaped and including a seal extending along one end of the surge barrier, the suction conduit extending the length of the surge barrier, a plurality of fasteners attaching the suction conduit to the surge barrier, a plurality of angularly disposed inlets in the suction conduit offset from its vertical, and a vacuum pump unit withdrawing captured waste fluid from the fluid collector. The Applicant's remarks of 19 June 2007 pertaining to the combination of Rohrbacher and Chayer have been considered, and are found to be persuasive by the Examiner. In particular, US 5,718,015 to Rohrbacher teaches some aspects of the claimed invention including an elongated fluid collector being substantially hollow and includes a perforated suction conduit (62). Rohrbacher does not include any teaching of a perforated surge barrier and also does not include a plurality of angularly disposed inlets in the suction conduit offset from the vertical. US 5,349,722 to Chayer discloses a similar system, including similar structure to the Applicant's claimed perforated surge barrier in that it is U-shaped, has a seal extending on one edge. Chayer does not include any teaching of a perforated suction conduit extending the length of the surge barrier.

Regarding claim 11, none of the prior art made of record includes a fluid pump unit for supplying cleaning fluid under pressure to the surface to be cleaned, a fluid collector for capturing waste fluid runoff of the cleaning fluid on the surface to be cleaned, a vacuum pump unit for withdrawing captured waste fluid from the fluid

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collector, recycling units for enabling the re-use of the withdrawn waste fluid, the recycling units include a holding tank unit for storing cleaning fluid for the pump unit, a settlement tank unit for receiving the captured waste fluid from the fluid collector, a vacuum pump unit, a separator that receives a waste fluid from the settlement tank to remove contaminants therefrom to provide a clarified fluid to the holding tank, wherein said separator including a separator tank confining a filter pad therein having multiple layers composed of polypropylene material, wherein the separator tank includes a perforated baffle, the filter pad being folded over the perforated baffle within an inlet compartment, and an outlet compartment communicating with the inlet compartment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C. Guidotti whose telephone number is (571) 272-1272. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am - 5pm, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys Corcoran can be reached on (571) 272-1214. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Laura C Guidotti
Laura C Guidotti
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1744

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